

CLAIMS:

1. A drive device for providing access to a record carrier (10), said drive device (30) comprising access means (20) for providing at least one of a read access and a write access to at least one predetermined parameter written on a predetermined navigation area (DN) on said record carrier (10), said at least one predetermined parameter specifying at least one of a logical format and an application format used on said record carrier (10).
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2. A device according to claim 1, wherein said at least one predetermined parameter comprises a disc descriptor information (DD) for specifying at least one of an identification of said record carrier, a type of said record carrier, and parameters applying to said record carrier as a whole.
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3. A device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said at least one predetermined parameter comprises a partition descriptor information (PD) for specifying at least one of a nature of each partition on said record carrier, a type of each partition on said record carrier, a space associated with each partition on said record carrier, a fragment allocation to each partition on said record carrier, and specific rules for recording on each partition on said record carrier.
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4. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said access means (20) is configured to provide at least one of a read access and a write access to an application use area (AUA) provided in said navigation area for storing an application specific information available to at least one of a physical layer, a logical layer and an application layer of said drive device (30).
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5. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said at least one parameter of said navigation area (DN) is accessible by at least one of a logical layer and an application layer of said drive device (30) by using a predetermined access command.
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6. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said access means (20) is arranged to provide a caching function for caching at least a part of the information provided on said navigation area.
- 5 7. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said access means (20) is arranged to use pointers stored in said navigation area (DN) for partitioning said record carrier (10) into separate areas.
8. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said access
10 means (20) is arranged to use said navigation area (DN) for determining the location of a starting address number in the logical address space for said record carrier (10) as a whole or for a specific application.
9. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said access
15 means (20) is arranged to use said navigation area (DN) for reserving space in a program area of said record carrier (10) for specific file systems, allocation classes or applications.
10. A device according to claim 9, wherein said access means (20) is arranged to
20 use said navigation area (DN) for assigning properties or attributes to said reserved space.
11. A device according to claims 9 or 10, wherein said access means (20) is
arranged to use said navigation area (DN) for providing pointers into said reserved space and room for application specific data.
- 25 12. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said access means (20) is arranged to use pointers stored in said navigation area (DN) for applying a seeking function.
13. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said access
30 means (20) is arranged to use said navigation area (DN) for selecting an application class for an application.
14. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said access means (20) is arranged to write to said navigation area (DN) a location information of data

accessed at a rate higher than a predetermined number or an access pattern information for sequential data retrieval.

15. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said access
5 means (20) is arranged to use a dynamic partitioning for defining areas in said navigation area (DN).
16. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said access
10 means (20) is arranged to apply a volume-based rights management to sessions of an information area (IA) of said record carrier (10).
17. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said access
15 means (20) is arranged to apply a volume-based, partition-based or fragment-based defect management to sessions of an information area (IA) of said record carrier (10).
18. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said drive
device is a removable drive device (30) for an optical disc (10).
19. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said drive
20 device (30) comprises a standard interface (32) for storage devices.
20. A device according to claim 19, wherein said standard interface (32) is a
PCMCIA, Compact Flash, Newcard, or MMCA interface.
- 25 21. A record carrier for storing data on an information area (IA) thereof, wherein
said information area comprises a navigation area (DN) for storing at least one predetermined
parameter specifying at least one of a logical format and an application format used on said
record carrier (10).
- 30 22. A record carrier according to claim 21, wherein said navigation area (DN) is
arranged in a lead in area (LI) of said information area (IA).
23. A record carrier according to claim 21 or 22, wherein sessions provided in said
information area (IA) are written without separate lead-in and lead-out area.

24. A record carrier according to any one of claims 21 to 23, wherein sessions provided in said information area (IA) have a granularity of one fragment.

5 25. A record carrier according to an one of claims 21 to 24, wherein sessions provided in said information area (IA) have at least one of a varying size and a varying physical location.

26. A method of reading from or writing to a record carrier (10), said method
10 comprising the steps of:
a) providing on said record carrier (10) a predetermined navigation area (DN);
b) writing on said navigation area (DN) at least one predetermined parameter specifying at least one of a logical format and an application format used on said record carrier (10); and
15 c) using said at least one predetermined parameter for at least one of a read access and a write access to said record carrier (10).